

## A Retrospective Glance Over the Past Year's Record of the City Administration

At the close of each fiscal year it is a common practice for business houses and companies of any consequence to make reports of business transacted and work accomplished during the preceding twelve months, that the present worth and the standing of the concern might be ascertained.

Each individual might also with profit to himself review his year's work and measure up, taking for his standard the divine code of laws laid down by the Master whose birthday we celebrate during the festive holiday season. Have our accomplishments been satisfactory to ourselves and to the community of which we form a part?

Is our individual stock worth one hundred cents on the dollar, or would 25 or 50 per cent more nearly represent its true value?

It is not my purpose, however, to philosophize on life and its numerous problems. I am to take a retrospective glance over the past year's record of the City Administration and briefly state a few of its accomplishments, that the people might become somewhat acquainted with what the City Fathers have been doing, and what there is to show for the several thousand dollars that have been spent.

With the average man, the spending of money, particularly public money, is an easy task. The judicious spending of the city's revenue, however, is a much more difficult one.

Our present city officials have endeavored to be judicious and careful in handling the public funds. A few mistakes have doubtless been made. Like taxes, they are hard to avoid, but care has been taken to eliminate them.

When our present city administration took charge of municipal affairs last January, they received as an inheritance from the former administration a few hundred dollars in cash and the responsibility of paving five blocks of Main street in connection with the eighteen foot strip within the city limits financed by the State. The engineering firm of Huddleston & Fiero of Salt Lake City had been engaged, and the contract had been let to the Gibbons & Reed Company also of the State's capital.

When the contractors were about ready to begin work, a serious problem arose. The city's water system along Main street consisted of 6 inch wood stave pipe which had been laid for a considerable number of years. The proposed pavement would cover this pipe, making it inaccessible in case of leaks, some of which had already developed. Should this wood pipe be allowed to remain, or should it be replaced with cast iron pipe, was the question.

It was decided to replace with cast iron pipe, about 2700 feet of which was installed at an approximate cost of \$4,700.00.

The contract entered into with the Gibbons & Reed company called for the paving of three blocks 59 feet wide, with curb and gutter, and two blocks 37 feet wide, without curb and gutter. This included the 18 foot strip to be done by the state, and the paving of the right of way of the Salt Lake & Utah Railroad. In addition to the above which comprised Street Paving District No. 1, the contractors were to pave the State's 18 foot strip east and west to the city limits. The pavement was to consist of a two inch bituminous top on a 6 inch concrete base. The actual work commenced about April 10th and was finished about the 15th of August at a total expense as per final estimates of \$136,494.65, proportioned as follows:

State and County .... \$70,223.72  
Abutting Property Owners ..... 35,137.54  
American Fork City .. 14,060.96  
Salt Lake & Utah Ry. .. 17,072.43

How to finance the city's portion of the expense for street intersections, grading, etc., required careful consideration. At first, it was thought that it would be necessary to bond the city to raise funds for this improvement, and other improvements that had been proposed. It was finally decided, to avoid the expense of a bond election and the chances of selling the bonds on a weak market at a discount, to use the money accumulated in the waterworks sinking fund amounting to some fifteen thousand dollars, the waterworks fund to be replaced within two or

three years by direct taxation. This latter plan was without a doubt the better one, and the paving and other improvements have been properly financed. Much credit is due to the local banks who have willingly responded to the calls of the city. The money has been furnished at 6 per cent interest when needed when a much higher rate was obtainable from other parties.

Another problem was the paving of the right of way of the "Orem road." The Railroad desired to gravel its right of way in lieu of paving. The company finally consented to pave, but pleaded its inability to finance the work, and asked to come into the district on the basis of the abutting property owners, viz: to pay one-tenth each year with interest until the improvement was paid for. The difficulty of financing was finally overcome by the contractors agreeing to handle one-half of the railroad's special paving warrants, the other half to be purchased by the city. The railroad warrants were sold so as to let the holders eight per cent on the investment.

The paving of Main street was a big undertaking, the largest in the history of the city with the possible exception of the installation of the water system. Fortunately the contractors, Gibbons & Reed company, were competent, responsible men, who conscientiously endeavored to fill their contract to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. The Mayor and Council also worked faithfully to complete the work successfully. The citizens can look with pride upon this splendid improvement in the center of our fair city, and the hundreds and thousands of people that pass through our town monthly carry with them the testimony of the craft and progressive spirit of American Fork and its inhabitants.

Another improvement of importance, having for its object the increasing of the culinary water supply was the digging of a drain above the upper intake 700 feet long and 15 feet deep at the north end, gradually tapering to a less depth toward the south. The work was contracted to R. R. Steele and Sons, including the laying of the drain tile and filling in, for the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, the total cost including the drain tile was approximately \$1950. The improvement has proved a success and has materially aided in keeping up the water supply the past summer.

American Fork has ever been known as a wide-awake, go-ahead community, and there appears to be no disposition on the part of the people to allow the reputation to wane. This was evidenced by the action of the citizens in holding mass meetings and petitioning the City Council to purchase ground on Main street for a public library site and a central park. Two or three locations were suggested. The purchase of the Robinson corner comprising 80 square rods, and the Shipley estate property opposite American Fork Co-op. of like area was agreed upon, and have since been bought by the city at a cost of \$5800.

The locations are considered ideal for the purposes for which they are intended. Some time in the not far distant future we hope to have a beautiful public library and civic center building and a central park as monuments to the progressive spirit of our citizens.

The city officials have ever been desirous of encouraging good, clean, manly sport. Their financial aid was asked in connection with certain desired improvements in the city park. It was explained that our base ball fans were in danger of bodily harm from flying balls and bats, and it was proposed that bleachers be built, properly protected with wire netting.

The bleachers and other minor improvements were made at a cost of about \$220.00.

Another item worthy of notice that has been financed by the city is the framing of the service flag as a memorial to our soldier boys who gave their services in the cause of liberty. The service flag was suitably framed by our local artist, Axel Bloomquist, at an expense of \$150.00. It is anticipated that it will be permanently located in the new library building when constructed. In connection with the service flag a suitable record has been purchased and it is proposed that each soldier boy shall be given a page in which will be recorded the history of his enlistment, the same to be kept in the archives of the city.

That the city ordinances might be more accessible and made to conform with our present statutes, the former council took steps for a revision. The work was completed and the revised ordinances delivered to the present administration, making our laws in much better shape than they have been for some time.

Mention has been made of the main special items that have received attention during the present administration. In addition thereto, the regular business of the city has been attended to — items to numerous to mention. A number of excellent improvements have been made; others might have been made had finances permitted. The present revenue of the city will not permit immediate attention being given to all needed improvements. These will have to be gradually made. The people must not, and should not, be taxed to death. In a day dream the writer sees in the not far distant future among other things, an extension of our cement sidewalks, an improved fire fighting machine, with a suitable building, properly heated, on the City Hall grounds in which to house the fire department; a history of American Fork, upon which the teachers and students of our High school are industriously working, an improved central park and a beautiful public library and civic center.

As one of the city officials, I wish my fellow citizens the compliments of the season, coupled with the hope that the coming year will bring peace and prosperity to all.

GEO. F. SHELLEY.

### Sugar Company Pays \$250,000 to Local Beet Growers

Farmers of this vicinity received approximately \$250,000 for beets delivered in November, last Wednesday. This is the second pay day for the farmers for their beets.

A splendid average run has been maintained at the factory, and a successful year has been experienced.

### COMMERCIAL CLUB ENDORSE PURCHASE OF APOLLO HALL

The Commercial club held an interesting and well attended meeting Monday night.

A committee consisting of C. M. Beck and E. J. Chadwick was appointed to confer with the County Commissioners and ask them to delay granting a contract for the completion of the county courthouse until one year from now, when prices of building material are bound to be lower.

Dr. J. F. Noyes, the local member of the school board, was present and reported that the school board had authorized him to purchase the Apollo Hall to be used as a gymnasium for the local High school and asked the Commercial club to endorse the action. After much discussion a vote was taken and was almost unanimous there being only one dissenting vote, M. C. Robinson, voting no on the purchase.

A motion carried that a written notification of their action be sent to the School board and urge them to make the purchase.

A motion carried that hereafter meetings of the club would be held on other nights than Monday and Tuesday, on account of other meetings being held regularly in the city on those nights.

### WILL SPEAK ON ONE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

Next Tuesday evening in the City Hall, at 8 o'clock, State Supt. of Schools, Muir, is scheduled to speak to members of the Commercial club, and taxpayers, concerning the advantages of one big Central High school for the Alpine school district.

All taxpayers, not only of American Fork, but of other towns in the district, are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

Buy your Xmas gifts at your own price. Grant's big auction sale Thursday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

### All Stores Are Carrying Home Made Bread

All merchants are now carrying home made bread from our local Bakery. Their idea is to patronage home industries and help build up our little city. The agreement between the Bakery people and stores are that no more Salt Lake bread will be sold here.

Grant's big annual auction sale Thursday, from 2 to 4, and evening 7 to 9.

### TO THE CITIZENS OF AMERICAN FORK

One week from today is Christmas day; the day which is celebrated throughout the whole Christian world in honor of the birth of our Savior. He who brought peace and good will to all men. So let us in our celebration of the Christmas season, keep this thought of peace and good will foremost in our minds.

It is not necessarily the giving of gifts which is of importance in the development of the Christmas spirit as it is the expression of our concern for the happiness, the joy, the well being of those who surround us. Let us as friends, neighbors and fellow-citizens put forth a special effort to make the coming Christmas one which is worthy of the great day it is supposed to represent.

In behalf of the city officials of our city I desire to extend to you the season's greetings. May you have peace and happiness for Christmas and joy and prosperity throughout the New Year.

JESSE M. WALKER, Mayor.

### School Activities in the Alpine District, 1920

[By Superintendent Jas. H. Walker.]

Measured by the quantity and quality of our product we have not had a more successful school year than 1919-20. Generally speaking our patrons now aim to have their children graduate from High School. This is their new goal. It has not been their goal for long. In June we graduated eighty-four students from a total school population of less than 5000 children. Less than four hundred pupils started to school in this group twelve years ago. Eighty-four of four hundred pupils realized our new ideal this year—twenty-one per cent of them. This year 1920 there is a larger percentage of pupils

graduating from high school than there were graduating from the 8th grade in 1900.

The quality of the product of the school depends upon the intensity of the interest of the children as they go through school. The mind develops through interest. The supreme question in school is therefore "what are the interests of the pupils?" In general we know that children are interested in things of sense. They should be allowed the free use of materials and permitted to create things. Using materials to express his own thoughts is a demand of the child's nature which we should not ignore. Judgment and reason are developed through spontaneous activity in creating situations. Personal interest sharpens the intellect. Therefore we must allow ample opportunity for meeting situations in which the child is keenly interested. The acquiring of information through the formal lesson and recitation plan gives little opportunity for the development of sound judgment. Judging our product from the new viewpoint it is superior to anything we have yet produced. "A sound, accomplished, beautiful body and an intelligent, sympathetic mind, a sweet, sincere spirit—these are the immediate ends of education."

While our product is superior to anything we have yet produced it is by no means satisfactory. Education is life itself and the only way this aim can be realized is to make the school, life itself. More concrete material, less formal recitation and lesson work. We must train more and teach less. To accomplish this aim the groups of children should be reduced, the curriculum modified, and the teachers trained to meet their new work.

The best opportunity to realize our new aim in education is to let the school get outside the four walls of the school room. Our summer work is in this direction, and while the results are not altogether satisfactory they are encouraging. Generally the teachers have insisted on the projects being well worked out before credit is given. Possibly the most favorable thing that can be said about the summer work is that it is work the child wants to do and that it is worked out in the child's home environment. The work that the child must do during the summer is approved by the teacher. This home work is vital because it is done when there is a need for it. Then, too the home gets the sympathy and the aid of the teacher, and the teacher gets the sympathy and aid of the parents. During the past summer we have had six summer works employed. 390 pupils have been enrolled in summer projects. The teachers have made 2431 visits to the homes, an average of six visits for each pupil. The summer workers come in contact with 2374 pupils on hikes, summer camps, swimming parties, ball games and social and religious gatherings.

The regular school attendance has shown a marked increase during the past two years, this is due in part to the appeal that we can make to the boys and girls. Those who once stayed at home "to do things" now come to school "to do things." It is our aim to have everyone go to school because of the opportunities they see in school. As yet we have not realized our aim. Many are in school because of the new school law which provides that those between the ages of 14 and 18 years shall attend school for thirty weeks each year until they graduate from high school.

According to the July 1920 census report there were in our district 1465 pupils between the ages of 14 and 18 year. Of these 1465 pupils between the age of 14 and 18 years there are:

1. In High School 811 Pupils.
2. In 7th and 8th grade 425.

3. In Part-time and night school 122.
4. Excused on account of poor health, 10 pupils.
5. Outside the mileage limit, 37 pupils.
6. High school graduates under 18 18 pupils.
7. Who have moved away, 44 pupils.
8. In private schools, 36 pupils.
9. Married, 10 pupils.
10. Turned 18 since July, 1920, 71 pupils.
11. Pupils who are still out of school, without excuse, 26.

Total ..... 1510

While the sudden decline in the bond market in July made it necessary to postpone the building program yet during the year the additions to the Lincoln, and Lindon buildings have been completed. The showers and locker rooms are being installed in the Pleasant Grove Gym. The Lehi Tabernacle has been purchased and the Domestic Art, Domestic Science, Agriculture and Mechanic Arts rooms have been equipped. Adequate culinary water is being provided at Lake View, Manila, Lindon, Sharon and Spencer.

The Parent-Teachers' organization occupy a very unique position in the consolidated school system of our State. To this organization we are indebted for the progress we have made and whatever progress we shall make in the future is dependent upon it. The leaders and members of these organizations are to be complimented on the program they have carried out. The activity of the organization has centered about the new Health Program outlined by Dr. E. G. Gowans. The work of educating the patrons for the need of Health work has been given attention in a series of lectures on Public Health provided by the University of Utah, under the leadership of Dr. Sears. The patrons at each school were served. In all fifty meetings were held and the attendance totaled a little less than ten thousand. While the patrons were being converted to the need of health work, the teachers were being trained by competent physicians to make a more intelligent daily inspection of the children of their room.

Each organization conducted an active campaign on the bond issue in order that better housing facilities might be provided. Under their leadership a reasonable amount of playground apparatus has been secured at Lehi, American Fork, Pleasant Grove, Spencer and a number of the smaller schools. The dance and recreation problem have had attention from the organization co-operating with the Church Social Committee and conditions are improved as a result—halls are better managed and more chaperons are attending parties. Fewer commercial dances and more dances under the direction of religious and social organizations are being conducted. The organizations are at present working in co-operation with the charity and relief workers to have all cases of remedial defects of the school children cared for.

The coming school years have many problems in store for us. Reconstruction in education as in everything else is necessary. In addition to the problems of reconstruction the Home, the Church, and the State are giving us new responsibilities. Are we preparing to make the necessary readjustments and to meet our new responsibilities? Some of the best blood, and brawn, and brain of the State is needed for this work. How can we attract it to do the service?

### Farewell Meeting Sunday Night

The meeting in the tabernacle Sunday night will be a farewell for Willard Clarke, who will leave January 6th for a three years' mission to New Zealand. You are invited—time 7:30.